

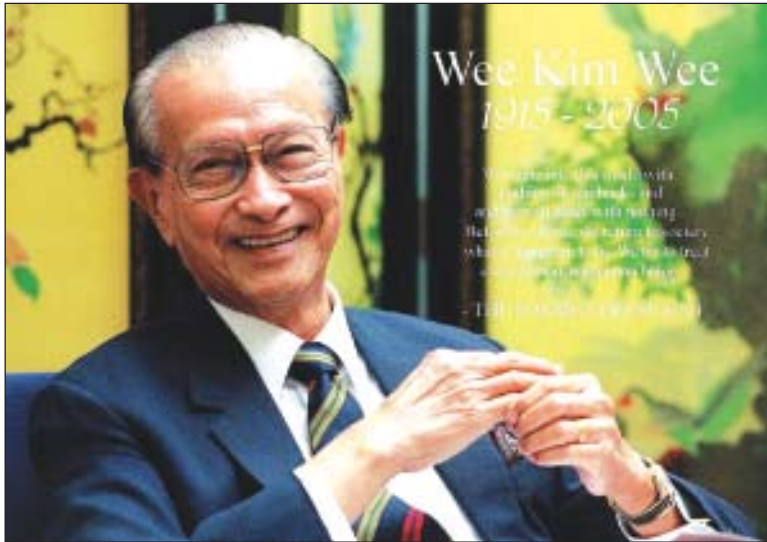


Contact

Newsletter of the Vancouver-Singapore Club



A TRIBUTE TO DR. WEE KIM WEE



The People's President - Dr. Wee Kim Wee (Photo by courtesy of Singapore Press Holdings Ltd.)

Singapore's fourth President, Dr. Wee Kim Wee, passed away in the morning of 2nd May 05 in Singapore, at the age of 89.

During his presidential office from 1985 to 1993, Dr. Wee became known as the 'People's President'. Those who interacted with him were touched by his personal warmth and genuine care for people and the everyday issues that affected them.

Dr. Wee was known to be humble and kind. While we mourn his departure, the memories of his life, his achievements and warm personality will continue to touch and inspire us, for generations to come.

A condolence book was opened to the public on May 5 & 6, 2005 at the Consulate-General of the Republic of Singapore Office in Suite 1820, 999 West Hastings Street, Vancouver. Mr. Michael Leong and members of the Executive Committee were on hand to pay tribute to Dr. Wee and to sign the condolence book on behalf of the Club.



At the Students' Networking Night on May 5, 2005 - (from left) Mr. Gerald Yeo, Director, International Networking, Mr. Richard Liew, President MSBCA, Ms. Mavis Ow, Manager, International Networking, Ms. Tara Puvirasa, Manager, Overseas Singaporean Programme, Mr. Michael Leong, President VSC and Mr. Chin-Kwok Foo, Consul-General of Singapore. Back row Standing: Mr. Sing-Lim Yeo, President Nantah Alumni.



Newly elected Legislative Assembly Member for Richmond-Steveston, Mr. John Yap (left) with wife, Suzanne and Premier Gordon Campbell. Mr. Yap is the first ex-Singaporean elected as MLA.



Con-Gen Foo (in red batik) with winners of the Chinese New Year Costume Contest during the Dinner & Dance on February 5, 2005 at the Floata Seafood Restaurant, Vancouver.



Who says it's impossible to win the SIA ticket two times? Here is the winner Mr. Yen-Wen Cheng (centre) to prove it. On the right is Mr. Paul Dorai Raj, Vice President of SIA Canada.

**Vancouver-Singapore Club
Executive Committee Members
2005/2006**

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	Gina Hansen	604-321-6012
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	Johnny Kee	604-472-1313
	Sunshine Lim	604-879-2716
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	Yee Hua Tan	604-738-6613
	Shirley Wong	604-552-3369
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SFU:	Nadia Kasenda	604-762-7731
	David Leong	604-789-2295
	(Malaysia-Singapore Students' Club)	
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- (a) Members advertising their own companies - 10%
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subject to availability of space.**

The views expressed in this newsletter are not
necessarily those of the Vancouver-Singapore Club.

President's Message

The Club pays tribute to Singapore's 4th President, Dr. Wee Kim Wee who died on May 2, 2005 in Singapore. We wish to thank Singapore Press Holdings Ltd. for allowing us to use Dr. Wee Kim Wee's photo on the front page of our newsletter.

Mr. John Yap became the first ex-Singaporean to be elected as a member of the Legislative Assembly in British Columbia on May 17, 2005. For Mr. Yap's profile and report, please see Page 14.

S.I.F. Delegation Visits Vancouver

We welcomed the visit of the delegation from the Singapore International Foundation to Vancouver from May 4-6. The delegation was lead by Mr. Gerald Yeo, Director, International Networking, Ms. Mavis Ow, Manager, International Networking and Ms. Tara Puvirasa, Manager, Overseas Singaporean Programme. Photos and report on Pages 8-9.

Singapore Business Council of Canada

To cater to the needs of members in business here, the Club is registering the formation of the Singapore Business Council of Canada. Members will be able to use this organisation for the promotion of their business in Vancouver and trade with Singapore. They can also access other Singapore Business Associations world-wide.

Chinese New Year Dinner & Dance 2005

The Club celebrated the year of the Rooster with a dinner and dance event on Saturday, February 5 at the Floata Seafood (Chinatown) Restaurant, Vancouver. The highlight of the evening was the donation to the Singapore International Foundation Aid Appeal Fund for the Tsunami-Hit Communities through the sales of the Raffle Draw tickets.

Welcome "Social Night"

Replacing the "Kopi Tiam Night" is a new programme called "Social Night". The first "Social Night" was held on Monday, March 7 at the Willingdon Community Centre, Burnaby. Over 50 members and friends attended the opening. We wish to thank the Board of Directors from MSBCA for their kind support at the opening. Members are reminded that the "Social Night" will stop during the months of July, August and September and it will resume in October, 2005.

16th Annual General Meeting

Over 50 members and friends turned up for the 16th Annual General Meeting held on April 2 at the Willingdon Community Centre, Burnaby. The atmosphere at the AGM was relaxed and friendly. Members exercised their rights to vote in a new Executive Committee for the year 2005/2006. The President thanked all members of the 2004/2005 Executive Committee for their dedication and time given to the club.

Postal and Email Addresses

In line with the modernisation of communication, this is another reminder to all members to lodge in their email addresses with the Club as soon as possible. Postal mailing of information will gradually be phased out in the next couple of months. The Canada Post Box No. 2838 at 349 West Georgia Street, Vancouver will not be renewed upon its expiry on October 31, 2005. If you wish to continue receiving the Club's newsletter and information by mail, please return the form on Page 14. Members can obtain up-dates on the Club's activities by logging on the website at: **www.singaporeclub.ca** or **www.vancouveringaporeclub.ca**. You can also view a full colour copy of this newsletter by visiting our website.

Summer Activities

You can view a range of activities arranged by the Club for your enjoyment and participation on Page 15. Bring your family and friends to share the summer of "fun" with us.

Michael Leong



Our captivating reception team is on-hand to meet our guests: (l-r) Mrs. Helen Leong, Mrs. Shirley Wong, Mrs. Gina Hansen and Ms. Lillian Quek.

Members and friends jointly heralded in the year of the "Rooster" with a Dinner & Dance on February 5, 2005. The event was held at the Floata Seafood (Chinatown) Restaurant in Vancouver with about 400 people in attendance.

The Guest-of-Honour at the function was the Consul-General Chin-Kwok Foo and Mrs. Billy Foo. Members of fraternal Societies and Associations were also on hand to celebrate the occasion with us. We wish to thank the following for their kind support and attendance at our function (*in alphabetical order*):

1. China North East Chamber of Commerce Canada
Mr. Qi-Liang Chen, President
2. Hainan Benevolent Association of Canada
Mr. Michael Si, President
3. Malaysia Association of B.C.
Mr. Andrew Annuar, President
4. Malaysia Singapore Brunei Cultural Association
Mr. Christopher Chung, 2nd Vice President
5. Nantah Alumni of B.C.
Mr. Sing Lim Yeo, President
6. NUS Alumni of B.C.
Mr. Arthur Yap, B.C. Representative
7. Royal Commonwealth Society
Mr. David Petitpierre, Co-Chair
Mr. John Harris, Co-Chair



Club officials with some of our VIP Guests: (from left) Mr. Michael Leong, Mr. Qi-Liang Chen of ChinaNECCC, Mr. T. S. Kwek and Mr. Paul Dorai Raj of SIA.

8. Singapore Airlines
Mr. Paul Dorai Raj, Vice President Canada.

The highlight for the evening was the Chinese Costume Extravaganza Contest which attracted almost all the women folks who attended in their traditional Chinese dress. With so many lovely candidates, the judges had a hard time selecting the finalists.

Singapore Airlines supported us with a return economy class air-ticket to Singapore. This ticket was the highlight in the Raffle Draw. The Ex-co decided to allocate 25% of the fund raised to support the Tsunami Disaster. The money was channeled through the Singapore International Foundation for Continued Tsunami Relief operations. The Club wished to thank all the generous supporters for their purchase of the Raffle Draw tickets.

A "Live" band was hired to provide music and songs befitting the Chinese New Year celebration. Members and guests enjoyed the dancing till 1.00 a.m.

The success of the event rested heavily on the efforts of the Executive Committee, members and supporters. Without their contributions, we cannot enjoy the success that we had. Thank you all very much.



Mr. Michael Leong (left) presenting the 27" Colour TV to lucky winner Mr. Arthur Yap (right).



Mr. Edmund Ling receiving his prize from Mrs. Billy Foo.



Our "happy" guests dancing the night away at the party.



Mr. Michael Leong (left) presenting the Life Membership to Mr. & Mrs. Hawk/Elaine Soh



Mr. Robert Chia presenting a prize to a lucky winner.



Here is the view of a section of the guests at the Chinese New Year Dinner & Dance.

Social Night

by Michael Leong



With so many lovely ladies at the Social Night, you don't want to miss out on the fun, do you?

From left: Mrs. Gina Hansen, Mrs. Helen Leong, Mrs. Mary-Anne Dorai Raj, Ms. Sunshine Lim, Mrs. Yee Hua Kwek and Mrs. Janet Chee.

Substituting for "Kopi Tiam Nite" is the newly introduced "Social Night" which is held every first Monday of the month at the Willingdon Community Centre, 1491 Carleton Avenue, Burnaby from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The first Social Night was held on Monday, March 7, 2005 where more than 50 members and friends attended the inauguration ceremony followed by a sumptuous buffet dinner. We are grateful for the attendance of:

- (a) Consul-General Chin Kwok Foo and Mrs. Billy Foo.
- (b) Mr. Richard Liew, President of MSBCA and his Board of Directors
- (c) President and members of the Executive Committee of Malaysia-Singapore Students Club of SFU
- (d) VSC Executive Committee, members and friends.

We wish to remind all members that they are welcome to bring their friends to the Social Night where they can meet the Executive Committee and other members. As the club does not have a clubhouse, the Social Night is an ideal place to get to know the club and the members. Besides meeting people, members can also play board games (free) and table-tennis/billiards at \$2.00 per person.

Future plans for the Social Night include dancing lessons and cooking demonstrations. There will be no Social Night during the months of July, August and September. Social Night will resume in October 2005. Please watch out for more information of this event on the club's website at: www.singaporeclub.ca.



Musical chair must be "fun" as you can see in this picture. That's what "Social Night" is all about!



Con-Gen Chin Kwok Foo speaking at the Inauguration of the Social Night.



Just watch what Mr. Richard Liew, President of MSBCA (right) is trying to pull out from the bag.



You can meet some of these interesting people at the Social Night. (l-r): Mr. T. S. Kwek, Mr. Paul Dorai Raj, Mr. Michael Leong, Mr. Jeremy Yap & Mrs. Gina Hansen.



Some of the members & friends at the Social Night.



See how sumptuous the food is and it's free too!

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A vibrant advertisement for Singapore Airlines. The central image shows a woman, the Singapore Girl, and a young child standing in front of a large, ornate lion dance head. The background features the Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay and the Singapore skyline at dusk. The Singapore Airlines logo and tagline are visible in the bottom right corner.

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Emigration and Integration

by Kwek Teong Sin

Emigrating to and making Canada your new home can be a daunting decision - moving from the familiar to the unknown environment and society. Yet many of us have taken this step. All of us emigrated for a variety of reasons and every reason is valid. Our lives in Canada can be a very interesting journey if we continue to maintain a positive attitude.

SETTLING IN

A little over two and a half years ago, we moved to Vancouver from a very comfortable life in Singapore. We have gradually merged into the local society, both socially and in business. It was never easy but we were very fortunate to have newfound friends and business associates guiding us along the way.

Like most Singaporeans, setting up home was fortunately easy and so was getting the children into the education system. The strong grounding of a top quality Singapore education made the transition smooth. Setting up a business was also easy but getting business has been extremely difficult.

NETWORKING

It was easy to make superficial business contacts. Our ability to converse in English, coupled with business experience, made it easy to get introduced to the business community. However, true networking was not easy. Many newly arrived businessmen had to depend on the networking with those who came from their home country. Unfortunately, the Singaporean business community is almost non-existent. Even if it did, it wasn't evident.

Vancouver Singapore Club Ex-co members have noticed this weak link. It initially formed the Business Awareness Committee and is now working towards formation of a federally registered Singapore Business Council. It is hoped that through this latter vehicle the Singaporean and Canadian business communities can come together to help each other and create opportunities for Singaporeans and Canadians who wish to set up or do business in Singapore and Canada.

UNIQUELY SINGAPORE

We found a rather interesting facet of the Singaporean persona. Very often, we heard about the fears of Singaporeans – that of the omnipresence of the ears and eyes of the Singapore government. We heard that many Singaporeans did not want to participate in, be seen or identified with, activities, both business and social, where there are other Singaporeans or representatives of the Singapore government. They simply go into 'hiding'.

This fear may be unfounded unless there is really something to hide. If one had committed a crime or did some unsavoury things in Singapore and emigrated to avoid detection and punishment, then this fugitive mentality may be valid. However, I believe that most Singaporeans who are here do not fall into this category.

It is really a choice we have to make. Do we want to integrate quickly with the help of our community or find our own ways at our own pace?

KEEPING IN CONTACT

It is can be beneficial for those emigrants who are still Singapore Citizens to maintain good contacts with the Singaporean community and the office of the Consul General. The Vancouver Singapore Club and the office of the Consul General, amongst other responsibilities, are here to give support and assistance to Singaporeans. There are also many collateral benefits, as they can be kept informed of the activities of the Singaporean community here and news about and development of Singapore.

YOUR CHOICE

Like all life decisions, it is all a matter of choice. We can integrate into the Canadian society and still maintain our Singaporean identity. Even if one had given up the Singapore Citizenship, our Singaporean heritage of maintaining thrift, hard work, competitiveness, ingenuity, systematic and pragmatic adaptability, loyalty and filial piety – can make our lives on the 'Best Place on Earth' a truly meaningful one. Let us help keep the Singaporean community alive and visible.



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Malaysia Singapore Night 2005 - For A Good Cause

by Eleanor Heng



At the Malaysia Singapore Night 2005: (from left) Mrs. Helen Leong, Mr. Michael Leong, Mrs. Billy Foo and Mr. Chin Kwok Foo.



Some of the Guests at the MSN 2005: (facing camera) Mr. Hsien-Loong Wong (left) and Mr. Michael Leong (right).

On March 26, 2005 we had a good show, good music, good dances, and good food at the Richmond Cultural Centre, all for a good cause. These were the highlights of this year's Malaysia Singapore Night 2005 – For a Good Cause. This great event had a two-fold objective: (1) to raise funds for two charities in Singapore and Malaysia – The Singapore Community Chest and the Malaysian Happiness House, and (2) to bring local Malaysians and Singaporeans together to enjoy a meaningful event that reminds them of home. Eleanor is pleased to announce that with the help of the event Project Manager Mr. Dominic Wong, co-organizer President of Singapore Raffles Club Mr. Glen Phua, and the volunteers of MSSC and SRC we have accomplished our goals. We have managed to raise over twenty-one hundred dollars for the two charities, and attracted an audience of close to 300.

Ms. Eleanor Heng, the President of Malaysia Singapore Students Club and co-organizer of the Malaysia Singapore Night 2005 had a chance to rub shoulders with many VIPs who not only took time off to grace this event but also donated bigheartedly. On behalf of the Malaysia Singapore Night 2005 executive committee, she would like to thank the following VIPs for their kind support:

Singapore Consul-General Foo Chin Kwok and Mrs. Billy Foo,



Performance by the Chen Ling Dance Academy.



Action from the play "Badang" by Mr. Dominic Wong. Costumes by courtesy of Tourism Malaysia.

Singapore International Foundation
Honorary Student Counselor and
Vancouver Singapore Club President
Mr. Michael Leong & Mrs. Helen Leong,
Malaysia Singapore Brunei Cultural
Association Vice President
Mr. Christopher Chung and
Past President Mr. Tim Wong, and
Malaysian Association of British Columbia
President Mr. Andrew Annuar and
Past President Mrs. Pamela Drakos.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our generous sponsors for making this event possible: Gold Sponsor:

Singapore International Foundation
Silver Sponsor: Daiso at Aberdeen Centre
Bronze Sponsors: SunClub Travel,
Vancouver Singapore Club, Malaysia
Singapore Brunei Cultural Association,
Ricepaper Magazine, SFU bookstore,
KLN Klein, and Copies Depot.

We were glad that this event had put a smile on so many faces of Malaysians and Singaporeans who have been staying in Vancouver for the longest time. The audiences were captivated by the beautiful dances, entertained by the comical show, blown away by the good prizes, and mesmerized by the heartwarming cultural music. This event had incidentally become an annual reunion ground for many old friends too. The Malaysia Singapore Night 2005 was definitely a memorable one, all for a good cause.



(L-R) SRC President Mr. Glen Phua and MSSC President Ms. Eleanor Heng receiving the sponsorship from the Singapore International Foundation, Honorary Student Counsellor Mr. Michael Leong.



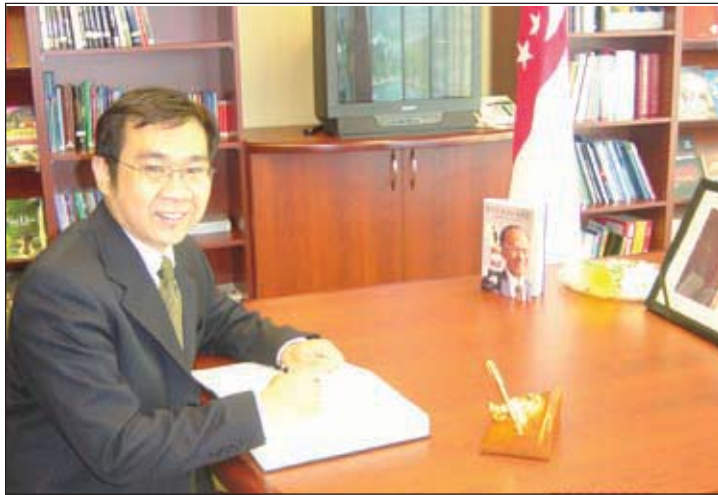
(l-r) Mr. Glen Phua, Ms. Eleanor Heng, Mrs. Gina Hansen of SunClub Travel acknowledging the Bronze sponsorship and Ms. Nadia Kasenda, Co-President of MSSC-SFU.



(L-R) Malaysia Singapore Brunei Cultural Association Vice President Mr. Christopher Chung, MSSC President Ms. Eleanor Heng, and top prizewinner of the Daiso \$200 gift cards.



Meeting the delegation on arrival. From left: Mr. Robert Chia, Mrs. Maggie Chia, Ms. Mavis Ow, Ms. Tara Puvirasa, Mr. Gerald Yeo, Mr. Michael Leong and Mrs. Gina Hansen. Seated: Mrs. Helen Leong.



Tribute to Dr. Wee Kim Wee: Mr. Gerald Yeo signing the condolence book at the Consulate-General Office in Vancouver.



Acknowledging the welcome at the Students' Networking Night in Vancouver, Mr. Gerald Yeo (standing centre).



Mr. Gerald Yeo (2nd from left) with student leaders at the Networking Night.

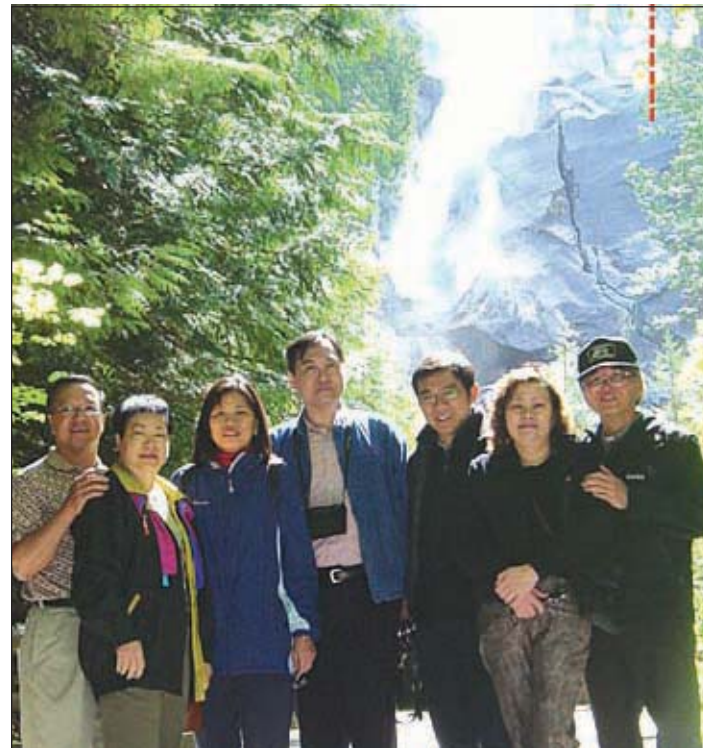
Welcoming the SIF Delegation to Vancouver



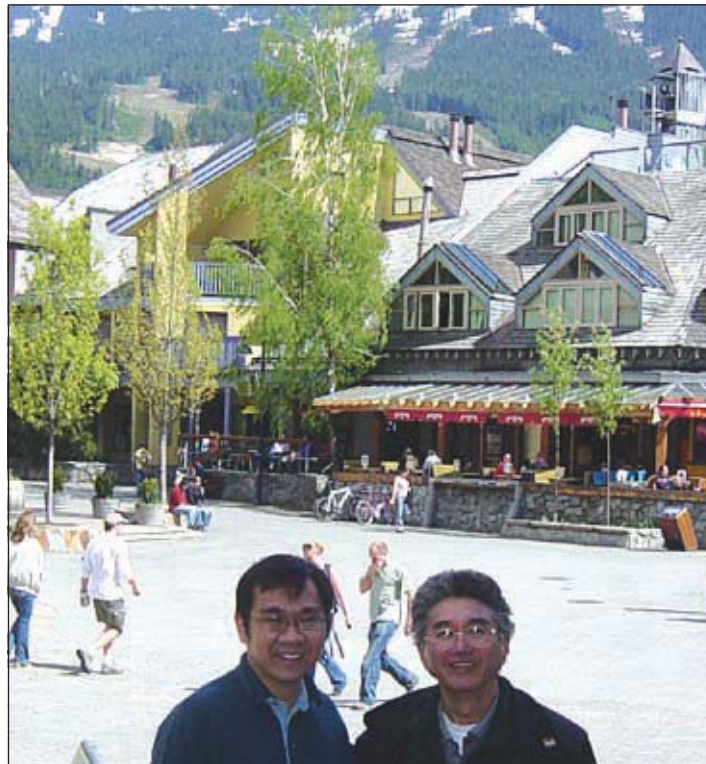
Mr. Gerald Yeo (front row in business suit-6th from left) with Ms. Tara Puvirasa and Ms. Mavis Ow (front row 1st & 2nd from right) posing with guests at the Students' Networking Night in Vancouver.

A delegation of 3 officials from the Singapore International Foundation visited Vancouver on May 4, 2005. They were: Mr. Gerald Yeo, Director, International Networking, Ms. Tara Puvirasa, Manager, Overseas Singaporean Programme and Ms. Mavis Ow, Manager, International Networking. Flying in from Chicago on the evening of May 4th, they were met on arrival by President Michael Leong & Mrs. Leong, Vice President Robert Chia & Mrs. Chia and Executive Committee member Mrs. Gina Hansen. A private dinner was hosted by the delegation to some members of the Ex-co.

The following day, Consul-General Chin-Kwok Foo invited the delegation to lunch with Mr. Michael Leong and Mr. T.S. Kwek. The delegation also had an opportunity to inspect various conference halls and facilities in anticipation of holding future overseas conferences in Vancouver.



Sharing a light moment at the Shannon Fall, Mr. Gerald Yeo (3rd from right) with some members of the Executive Committee.



Mr. Gerald Yeo (left) with Mr. Michael Leong (right) at Whistler Village.

A Networking Buffet was held on the evening of May 5 at Urban Buffet in downtown Vancouver. Over 50 people including students, Student Leaders from UBC and SFU, Business and Association Leaders representing SIA, MSBCA and MABC were on hand to join in the special event. As a token of respect to the former President of Singapore, Dr. Wee Kim Wee, all guests were requested to observe a minute of silence before the start of the buffet.

Ms. Tara Puvirasa and Ms. Mavis Ow left the following morning for Singapore via Chicago and New York while Mr. Gerald Yeo remained to visit Whistler with some members of the Ex-Co. A Farewell Dinner was held on May 8, by the Club in honour of Mr. Gerald Yeo's visit. After spending a private weekend in Vancouver, Mr. Gerald Yeo left for Singapore on Monday, May 9.



Relaxing at Squamish during trip to Whistler: (seated from left) Mrs. Yee Hua Kwek, Mr. Gerald Yeo, Mrs. Helen Leong, Mr. Michael Leong and Mrs. Pauline Chong. Standing from left: Mr. Teong Sin Kwek and Mr. David Chong.



Presenting a souvenir from VSC to Mr. Gerald Yeo (right) by Mr. Michael Leong (left) at the Farewell Dinner.



The SIF delegation (1st three from left) Ms. Mavis Ow, Ms. Tara Puvirasa and Mr. Gerald Yeo with some members of the VSC Executive Committee at the Networking Night.



At the VSC Farewell Dinner on May 8, 2005: (from left) Mr. Michael Leong, Mr. Gerald Yeo, Mr. Chin-Kwok Foo and Mrs. Billy Foo

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For information on Singapore Airlines, please visit us at www.singaporeair.ca.

Camp Singapore 2005

Singapore International Foundation will hold the 7th annual Camp Singapore from August 1 to 12, 2005 at the Anglo-Chinese Singapore (ACS) Primary at Barker Road. Registration is open to children of any nationality. For more information, please visit the website at: www.sif.org.sg/campsingapore or contact Mr. Michael Leong at: 604-942-6966.

Registration Exercise For Admission Of Children To Primary One In 2006

The Ministry of Education announced the registration exercise for admission of children to Primary One in 2006 will commence on July 5, 2005. Singaporean expatriates with children due for Primary One are encouraged to register their children while abroad during the Primary One Registration Exercise. A child who has applied and been allocated a school is eligible to apply for Leave of Absence from the school. Details of the exercise are available on the Ministry of Education's website at: www.moe.gov.sg or enquiries may be forwarded by e-mail to: MOE_PPS@MOE.GOV.SG or fax to: 65-6776-8616.

Learning A Third Language

Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew said that the Education Ministry is considering offering Bahasa Malaysia or Bahasa Indonesia as a third language option. The aim is for 10 to 15% of non-Malays to be fluent in either language. He said the need for this was highlighted by the recent tsunami experience.

"When Indonesian military commanders briefed our mission in Banda Aceh and Meulaboh, they spoke in Bahasa Indonesia. On our side, only PM Lee (Hsien Loong), Defence Minister Teo (Chee Hean) and a few SAF officers understood them," MM Lee said at his constituency's Chinese New Year dinner.

Thus, he added, it is vital for some key officers in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Singapore Armed Forces, the Police and some other agencies to be competent in these languages.



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More Cameras On The Look-out For Crime

Police are extending the use of closed-circuit television cameras to several parts of Geylang, following their success in curbing crime in areas such as Boat Quay and Newton Food Centre. The cameras use the latest technology to monitor, and even zoom in on, potential trouble spots.

Singapore Police Force director of operations Assistant Commissioner Aubeck Kam told The Straits Times: "Geylang won't be the last. We have a list of locations where we may extend the cameras to. But we will prioritise where they are needed, and do it in phases."

On a question about invasion of privacy, head of the police public affairs department, Senior Assistant Commissioner Tan Puay Kern, said that the cameras are meant to monitor criminal activity and violent crimes, including looking out for signs of terrorist activity, and not to spy on people. He added that the cameras are used only after consulting residents and tenants in the affected areas.

New Additions At The Airport

Changi Airport is building a third transit hotel to cope with increased demand. The new hotel will be located in Terminal 3, in a 7,700-sq-m area of the north basement car park. It is expected to be ready together with the terminal itself in 2008. Travellers will be able to walk from the hotel into the Terminal 3 departure hall, while passengers from Terminal 1 and 2 will use the Skytrain to reach it. And on February 18, Changi Airport launched its own newspaper Changi Express. The free fortnightly tabloid carries news and information on events around Asia Pacific, in Singapore and at the airport itself. There are also sections on technology, fashion, travel, business and health, as well as an "airport best buys" section. Some 100,000 copies are distributed every alternate Friday at the airport's transit lounges, downtown SIA ticketing offices, Singapore Visitor Centres and on the airport-city shuttle bus service.

Top City in Asia

An international survey of expatriates has found Singapore to be the best city in Asia to live in, ahead of Tokyo and Hong Kong. The survey was conducted by ECA International, a global membership organization for human resource professionals.

Its Hong Kong general manager, Lee Quane, said the factors that had contributed to this were the wide use of English in Singapore, along with good transport and communication infrastructures, health facilities, low health risks and low crime rates.

The cities in positions four to 10 were: Macau, Kuala Lumpur, Bandar Seri Begawan, Taipei, Bangkok, Seoul and Beijing.

Computer Gaming Gets A Boost

Japanese game developer Koei has invested S\$3 million to set up a studio in Chinatown to develop an online version of its hugely popular game Romance Of The Three Kingdoms – Japanese, Chinese and English. The CEO of Koei, Keiki Erikawa, said they chose Singapore because of its multicultural background and closeness to both Japan and China, which enabled the firm to easily do cultural research.

The Singapore branch will be the first Koei studio outside of Japan to develop a full computer game.

More From Polytechnics

This year, polytechnic graduates will take up some 2,300 of the 12,000 places available at Singapore's local universities, or about 20% of all vacancies. This is a big increase from just three years ago, when the combined intake of polytechnic graduates by National University of Singapore (NUS) and Nanyang Technological University (NTU) was fewer than 1,000.

The trend is partly fuelled by government policy, and partly by the universities recognizing the improving caliber of diploma holders. This year, NTU will take in 1,300 such students, up from 1,100 last year. By 2010, it expects to admit 2,000 diploma holders.



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洪雍智牙醫博士

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Ms. Yee Hua Tan (3rd from left) with delegates at the 6th Overseas Singapore Clubs Forum in Singapore

I was in Singapore and attended the 6th Overseas Singapore Clubs Forum that was held at the Amara Hotel on Friday 11 Feb 2005. Mr Gerald Yeo, Director, International Networking, Singapore International Foundation (SIF) gave a brief introduction of the event during his welcome address. The following were some of the issues presented and discussed during the forum:

Developments in Singapore in 2004

The talk on the developments in Singapore in 2004 was presented by Ms Jeanne Conceicao, Research Fellow at the Institute of Policy Studies.

The speaker mentioned that things were coming together for the better in 2004. Singapore seemed to find a better footing in politics as was in the seamless change on 12 Aug 04 when Mr Goh Chok Tong, Prime minister of Singapore for 14 years, handed over the ropes to Mr Lee Hsien Loong.

People were also encouraged to debate issues publicly and not just be passive bystanders.

Single women age above 35 years were allowed to buy larger HDB homes as compared to previously, where purchases were limited to 3 room flats.

There was also mention of the possibility of allowing casinos to be built in Singapore. Ultimately the decision to have casinos in Singapore would be a socio-economic one.

On the entertainment scene, there was the search for the Singapore Idol. As for healthcare, the last case of SARs was recorded in 2003 and by Jun 2004, there was no further need for temperature recording in most organizations. There was a major review of the Chinese language taught in schools. Mother tongue would no longer be considered compulsory for admission to the 3 universities.

Singapore's changing political landscape: the next generation of leaders

Singapore's changing political landscape: the next generation of leaders, was presented by Associate Professor Hussin Mutalib, Department of Political Science, National University of Singapore (NUS).

Leadership transition would involve the supervisory guidance of senior ministers, for example, Dr Tony Tan was still involved in the security and defence ministries. With Mr Lee Hsien Loong as the new Prime Minister, we could anticipate continuity as compared to a totally new political leader. However, it did not mean that the lack of natural resources, physical space, air, geographical and population constraints would change.

There was also the issue of worldviews. New leaders were viewed as "schooled" in old ways - shaped by old views and ideological preferences and inclinations. There was this maniacal obsession with economic gains and insistence that elites must lead. The existence of meritocracy was yet to be seen. There were issues that went beyond meritocracy and the leaders needed to reflect on them. It was felt that the relationship with Malaysia could be optimistic though.

New Challenges

There was a need for the new Prime Minister to do more. It was no secret that the new Prime Minister was a no-nonsense guy. He would need to be more consensual and consultative, unlike his father. The new Prime Minister also needed time to make changes and to manage his image.

The new government would need to honour the promises declared and allow for open views. People should not be persecuted when they make mistakes, but they should be engaged in the new challenges ahead.

The climate of caution (if not fear) is REAL. It would take time to remove such anxieties. There was also the promise of an open Singapore that needed to be honoured by the leaders. From the feedback unit, parliamentary policies, electoral conditions etc were supposed to be reviewed in 2002. However to date no implementation or review had been carried out.

On the issue of immigration, there was a need to build a national identity. Except for voting rights, the privileges of Singapore Citizens and permanent residents were almost the same. However there was a digital divide for those who could connect with the world and those who could not. People who had contributed need to be rewarded and pampered too.

Foreign policy

As Singapore looked global, it must be mindful of the sensitivities in the Asean region. In this region, perception was very important and our new challenge would be that with new crises, how should our new leaders handle and manage them. In the Malay news media (Malaysia and Indonesia), there have been claims that Singapore's help and contributions during the Dec 2004 Tsunami Disaster were hypocritical in nature. Singapore therefore needed to balance so as not to be seen by our neighbours as being overly pro-American. Our unhappy neighbours had called Singapore the 51st state of the USA.

Conclusion

There was a Question and Answer session followed by a dinner reception for the international club visitors hosted by Associate Professor Ho Peng Kee, Senior Minister of State for Law and Home Affairs. During the interaction, queries like citizens who had emigrated and national service for males within the age group for NS who were overseas were brought up. The queries were handled diplomatically by AP Ho.

The event was an eye opener for me. By attending this event, I came to understand that the leaders of Singapore are interested to share their views and concerns about the country with fellow Singaporeans who are stationed overseas. They are also interested to engage these overseas Singaporeans in matters concerning Singapore. I do look forward to attend future forums if I happen to be in Singapore.

Recipe Corner

(Acknowledgement: Reproduced through the kind courtesy of the Singapore International Foundation & Chef Tan Ban Khim of Grand Hyatt's StraitsKitchen)

Hainanese Chicken Rice

Poached chicken with garlic flavoured rice – serves 6 to 8 people.

Cooking the chicken

Ingredients:

1 chicken, approximately 2 kg.
A pot of boiling water
A pot of icy-cold water
Hook for hanging chicken
For brushing the chicken:
1 tbsp of sesame oil
1 tbsp light soya sauce

Method:

1. Bring a pot of water to a rapid boil.
2. When the water is boiling rapidly, hook the chicken onto the side of the pot. Turn heat to low and cover the pot. Let the chicken simmer for about 10 minutes, and then switch off the heat.
3. Immerse the bird in the pot of hot water for another 30 minutes before removing it.
4. Dip the chicken into the pot of ice water immediately after that, for 10 minutes. Remove the chicken

and hang it up, allowing excess water to drip off. Lay it to dry before brushing the chicken with the sesame oil and light soya sauce.

5. Keep the chicken stock for preparing the soup.

Cooking the soup

Ingredients:

10 cups chicken stock
1 small head of cabbage (shredded)
1 packet of tofu (diced)
2 tomatoes
2 tbsp chopped spring onion
1 ½ tbsp sugar
Salt to taste
1 tbsp light soya sauce
White peppercorn powder

Method:

Bring the chicken stock to boil with all ingredients except spring onion. Garnish with spring onion before serving.

Cooking the rice

Ingredients:

2 ½ cups long grained rice
3 ½ cups chicken stock
4 tbsp groundnut oil
20 g garlic
50 g shallot
2 tbsp salt
1 tbsp sesame oil
1 ½ tbsp sugar

Method:

1. Wash the rice and drain in a strainer.
2. Heat up oil in a wok. Stir fry the garlic and shallot. Add rice and fry till fragrant.
3. Transfer the rice to an electric rice cooker and add 3 ½ cups chicken stock, 2 tbsp salt, 1 tbsp sesame oil and 1 ½ tbsp sugar. When rice is cooked, use a pair of chopsticks to toss the rice.

Vancouver B-P Church Bible Camp 2005

Members of the Club are welcome to join the Bible Camp 2005 organised by the Vancouver Bible-Presbyterian Church. The camp will be held at the Cedar Springs Christian Retreat Centre in Sumas, Washington State, USA.

Registration for the camp is now open. Members who are interested to join the camp, are kindly requested to contact:

Pastor Isaac

Tel: 604-464-2000

Email:

infodesk.vbpc@shawcable.com.

Theme:

Victorious Christian Living

Speaker:

Dr. John Battle

Dates:

July 5 - 8, 2005

Venue:

"Cedar Springs"
Christian Retreat Centre
4700 Minaker Road,
Sumas, WA 98295
Tel: (360) 988-6674
Fax: (360) 988-6226

Fees:

Adult C\$120.00
Kids (13-18 years old) C\$ 80.00
Kids (4-12 years old) C\$ 60.00

Cheques payable to:

Vancouver B-P Church

VANCOUVER BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

温哥华笃信长老会



- Reformed Theology
- Traditional Hymns
- Family-Oriented Congregation
- Bible-based Children's Programs

Worship Service: Sunday, 10.45am

Service is conducted in English with Mandarin translation.

中文翻译

We are located at:

1651 Lougheed Hwy.
Port Coquitlam
(next to Best Western PoCo Inn)
604-464-2000

E-mail: infodesk.vbpc@shawcable.com

Congratulations!

Mr. John Yap-MLA for Richmond-Steveston



Mr. John Yap is the first ex-Singaporean elected to the Legislative Assembly of British Columbia.

"Since graduating from the University of British Columbia with an MBA and Bachelor of Science, John has worked in the financial services industry, including a 20-year management career with a major Canadian bank. More recently he has practiced as a financial consultant with a major investment and financial planning firm.

John is an active Rotarian, being a charter member and Past President of the Richmond Sunset Rotary Club. He is also an active member of Gilmore Park United Church, where he has served as Board Chair, Finance Chair, Treasurer and Personnel Committee Chair. John was a member of the Gilmore Park Project Group which oversaw the development of a multi-million dollar church facility and 117 unit seniors' retirement residence in West Richmond: the Gilmore Gardens Seniors Centre. He is currently board chair of Gilmore Gardens Seniors Centre. John is also a member of the Mission Through Finance Committee of British Columbia Conference of the United Church of Canada. He is a past member of the Seniors Advisory Council of the City of Richmond.

Born in Singapore, John immigrated as a teenager to Canada with his parents and has lived in the Lower Mainland for the past 30 years. John is a 19-year resident of Richmond. Married with two teenaged children, John enjoys reading, jogging, golf and travel."

We wish to congratulate John on the success of his election and we look forward to working closely with him in his new capacity as MLA.

Congratulations!

Visiting Consul-General Foo's Penthouse



Consul-General Chin-Kwok Foo invited some members and friends to his penthouse recently where satay and Singapore food were superbly prepared by his wife, Billy. Verdict from the guests were unanimous: excellent!

Picture on left:
Susan Chew with her daughter Jazelle born on April 28, 2005 at BC Women's Hospital. Weighing a hefty 9 lbs 3 ozs, baby Jazelle measures 52 cm. Both mother and daughter are doing well including a beaming proud dad, Yew-Lam Neo.



Guests at Con-Gen Foo's penthouse:
(front row-from left) Mrs. Yen-Ping Kok, Mr. Yen-Ping Kok, C-G Foo and Mrs. Billy Foo.
(back row-from left) Mrs. Yee-Hua Kwek, Mr. Teong-Sin Kwek, Mr. Michael Leong and Mr. Loong-Keng Lim

REQUEST TO CONTINUE POSTAL MAIL DELIVERY

Please mail this form immediately to the Club at:
1476 Lansdowne Dr, Coquitlam, BC V3E 2S8.

I would like to continue receiving my newsletter and Club information by mail. My postal address is:

Address

City

Province

Postal Code

Name of Member:



BBQ satay is not as easy as it appears. Here is Con-Gen Foo showing off his expertise and skill.

Welcome New Members

We are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Life Members:

Chern, Richard & Paulyn
Kwek, Teong Sin & Yee Hua
Soh, Hawk & Elaine

General Members:

Chen, James
Chow, Simon & Swee Teh
Coo, Johnny
Gan, Eric & Elaine
Gentis, Edward & Lotte
Kelly, Philip & Sow Lin
Ng, Harry & Lucy
Ong, Michael & Lillian
Ou, Kenneth & Christa
Wee, Maggie

Student Members

Kasenda, Nadia

Congratulations

Congratulations to Mr. Derrick Chee (eldest son of Mr. & Mrs. Ed/ Janet Chee) on obtaining his Master of Business Administration from the Queen's School of Business.

Singapore Airlines

The Club has made a special arrangement with SIA on some special promotional fares for members and their family flying to Singapore. For more information, please contact Mr. Michael Leong (Tel: 604-942-6966) or visit www.singaporeair.ca.

Cherry Picking Trip

Come and join us for a "Cherry Picking" trip to the Okanagan on July 9 and 10. Overnight accommodation (if required) will cost \$50.00-\$60.00 per couple (based on two couples sharing basis). For registration, please contact Mr. Michael Leong Tel: 604-942-6966.

Annual Camp

The Annual Camp will be held at the Golden Ears Provincial Park, Alouette Lake from Friday, July 29 to Monday, August 1, 2005. The 14 campsites reserved by the club have all been fully subscribed. Members can "day-visit" the campers on Saturday, July 30 and bring a pot-luck dish if they wish to join the campers in the "pot-luck" dinner.

Annual Picnic

The Annual Picnic will be held on Saturday, July 23, 2005 from 10.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. at the Barnet Marine Park, Burnaby. Members and their immediate family attend for "free" while guests are charged: Adults \$10.00 per person and kids (12 years & below) \$5.00 per person. Please register your attendance with Mr. Michael Leong Tel: 604-942-6966 or email: president@singaporeclub.ca.

Social Night

We have successfully held four "Social Night" from March to June 2005. An average of 40 people were present at each of the function. There will be no "Social Night" during the months of July, August and September. "Social Night" will resume in October, 2005. Venue, date and time will be announced in our website later. Members are welcome to bring their family and friends to join us in promoting the club.

Cruise To Alaska

We are trying to arrange for a "Cruise to Alaska" during the low price period of early September, 2005. Members who are interested in joining the cruise, are requested to contact Mr. Michael Leong at Tel: 604-942-6966 or email: president@singaporeclub.ca.

National Day Dinner & Dance

Date: Saturday, August 13, 2005.
Time: 6.00 p.m. to 1.00 a.m.
Venue: Continental Seafood Restaurant,
#150-11700 Cambie Road, Richmond, V6X 1L5.
Tel: 604-278-6331
Dinner: 10 course Chinese Dinner Banquet
Dancing: Continental "Live" Band with singers
Prizes: Door Prize & Members' Draw
Fund Raising: Raffle Draw at \$2.00 per ticket
(sold only to participants on night of dinner)
Ticket Price: Members: \$35.00 per person
Guests: \$40.00 per person
Table for Ten: \$350.00 per table
Sale of Tickets - Contact any Committee Member (see Page 2),
Michael Leong Tel: 604-942-6966/Fax: 604-942-2647
Email: president@singaporeclub.ca
Robert Chia Tel: 604-941-0645
Email: vp@singaporeclub.ca

Some Useful Addresses

Consulate-General of the Republic of Singapore

Suite 1820, 999 West Hastings Street,
Vancouver, B.C., V6C 2W2.
Tel: 604-669-5115/Fax: 604-669-5153

Singapore Airlines

Suite 1111-1112, 1030 West Georgia Street,
Vancouver, B.C., V6E 2Y3.
Tel: 604-681-5212/Fax: 604-689-2973

Vancouver-Singapore Club

c/o: 1476 Lansdowne Drive,
Coquitlam, B.C., V3E 2S8.

Membership Application Form

Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____

Tel: _____ Fax: _____

Cell: _____ Email: _____

For Corporate Membership – Name of Representatives:

1. _____
2. _____

I/We wish to apply for membership in the Club and agree to abide by its rules and regulations.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

Membership Fees: Corporate	\$180.00 per year
General	\$25.00 per year
Life (One time payment)	\$250.00
Student (In Full Time Studies)	\$10.00 per year

Please issue cheque to: **Vancouver-Singapore Club**



At the 6th Overseas Singapore Clubs Forum in Singapore on February 11, 2005 is Guest-of-Honour: Associate Professor Ho Peng Kee, Senior Minister of State for Law and Home Affairs (front row 6th from right) and Ms. Yee Hua Tan (front row 4th from left) representing the Club.



Consul-General of Malaysia invited members of the Malaysia and local community to welcome YB Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Abdul Hamid Pawanteh, President of the House of Senate Malaysia on April 16, 2005. From left: Mrs. Helen Leong, Mr. Michael Leong, Dr. Abdul Hamid Pawanteh, Excellency Mat Dris Hj. Yaacob, Con-Gen of Malaysia, Mr. Andrew Annuar, President MABC, Mrs. Pawanteh and Ir. Wong Foon Meng, Deputy President of the Senate.



Con-Gen Chin-Kwok Foo (front row: 4th from left) and Mrs. Billy Foo with members of the 2004/2005 Executive Committee at the Chinese New Year Dinner & Dance on February 5, 2005.



Members of the Club at the Social Night with Mr. Jeremy Yap, Deputy Director, MOT (3rd from left), Mr. Paul Dorai Raj, Vice President SIA Canada (6th from left) and Mr. John Yap (7th from left).



Life Member Mr. Michael Si, President of the Hainan Benevolent Association (extreme right) waving enthusiastically at the Chinese New Year Parade in Chinatown on February 13, 2005.



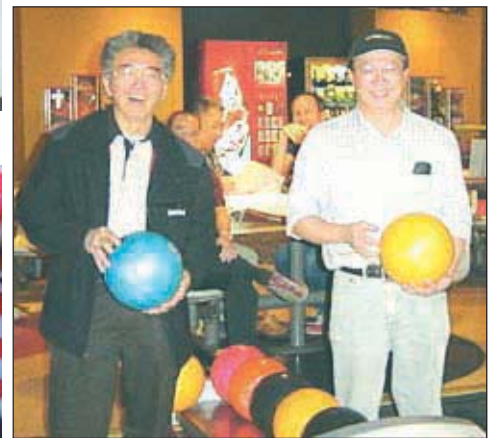
Presenting the flags of the Commonwealth at the Commonwealth Day celebration on March 13, 2005.



Announcing the winners of the Lucky Draws, Mr. Arthur Yap and Mrs. Helen Leong at the 2005 Chinese New Year Dinner & Dance event.



Presenting the Club's Certificate of Appreciation to Pauline & Michael Soh at the last Kopi Tiam Nite.



Mr. Michael Leong and Mr. Andrew Yeo (right) at the Bowling Competition organised by MABC.